

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 25 without prejudice, and amend the claims as follows:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of managing annotations for a plurality of different type data objects, comprising:

receiving a set of parameters identifying an annotated data object, wherein the identifying parameters identify locations of the annotated data object;

selecting, based on the set of identifying parameters, a mapping from a plurality of mappings, each containing a different set of mapping functions; and

creating an index for the annotated data object by mapping the identifying parameters to columns in an index table, as specified by the mapping functions of the selected mapping, wherein the mapping functions for each mapping are designed to map a different set of identifying parameters to columns in the index table, wherein the mapping functions of at least one of the mappings maps more than one identifying parameter to a single column.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[12]] 10, wherein the more than one identifying parameters are mapped to different sets of bytes in the single column.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein:
at least one of the mappings comprises mapping functions for mapping parameters identifying annotated data objects associated with a database to the index table columns; and

at least one of the mappings comprises mapping functions for mapping parameters identifying annotated data objects associated with a text document to the index table columns.

15-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~method of claim [[20]] 10, wherein at least one of the mappings comprises mapping functions for mapping parameters identifying data objects associated with a text document to the index table columns.

23-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method of managing annotations for a plurality of different type data objects, comprising:

receiving a set of parameters identifying an annotated data object, wherein the identifying parameters identify locations of the annotated data object;

selecting, based on the set of identifying parameters, a mapping from a plurality of mappings, each containing a different set of mapping functions, wherein at least one of the mappings comprises mapping functions for mapping parameters identifying annotated data objects associated with a database to the index table columns, and at least one of the mappings comprises mapping functions for mapping parameters identifying annotated data objects associated with a text document to the index table columns; and

creating an index for the annotated data object by mapping the identifying parameters to columns in an index table, as specified by the mapping functions of the selected mapping, wherein the mapping functions for each mapping are designed to map a different set of identifying parameters to columns in the index table, wherein the mapping functions of at least one of the mappings maps more than one identifying parameter to a single column.